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Marvel

6th Oct. 1995
No 208 90p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

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New stories! Number gallery! Leafy engines!

ALL AB

• Notice Board! •

Peep! Peep! All aboard for more engine adventures in this great issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends! With stories, features and fun, there's something to do for everyone! In our first story 'Good sports', Thomas and Bertie find themselves competing in a tug-o-war at a sports day! We hope you kept your cut-out pictures from last issue's Number Gallery, because it's time to stick them on to Gallery number 2! Gordon the Express engine proves that the big engines have problems too, in our read and play story 'A leafy problem!' If you look at our read and play activity, we'll show you how to make a 'leafy engine' picture. There's barrels of fun in our last story the 'Tub engine', when Thomas has a good idea for some fir trees at a prize winning station! Finally, enter our fabulous competition for a chance to win some more great Thomas prizes! Peep! Peep!

WIN A PULL ALONG THOMAS AND PLAYSET! PAGE 23!

Family Railcard is running a special book promotion this year to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Thomas the Tank Engine. Every customer who purchases a new Family Railcard before 31st December 1995 will receive a free Thomas the Tank Engine activity pack or book, worth £1.99, from any Dillons bookstore. Plus railcard holders will receive a 25% discount off a range of children's books from Reed Children's Publishing. We have 10 of these Family Railcards to give away. These handy rail discount cards are worth £20.00 each and valid for one year, so you'll be set for great family days out! As well as the Railcards, winners will also receive a Thomas the Tank Engine Activity pack, which includes a puzzle pad, colouring book and jigsaw puzzle! If you would like the chance to win one of these great prizes, the just answer this simple question: **In the picture the boy is holding a book. Which engine can you see on the front of this book?**

a. James b. Gordon c. Henry.

Send your answers on a postcard to:Thomas/Railcard competition, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Limited, 13-15 Arundel House, London, WC2R 3DX. Entries to be received before 15th October, 1995.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD.** Chairman; Jim Galton. Managing Director; Richard Maskell. Managing Editor; Alan J.O'Keefe. Editorial Team; Jenny Wackett, Jason Quinn. Art Director; Helen Nally. Design; Liz Stott. Production; Julie Pickering, Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX. All THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd., exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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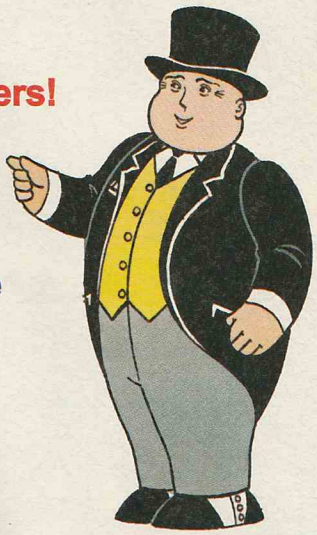
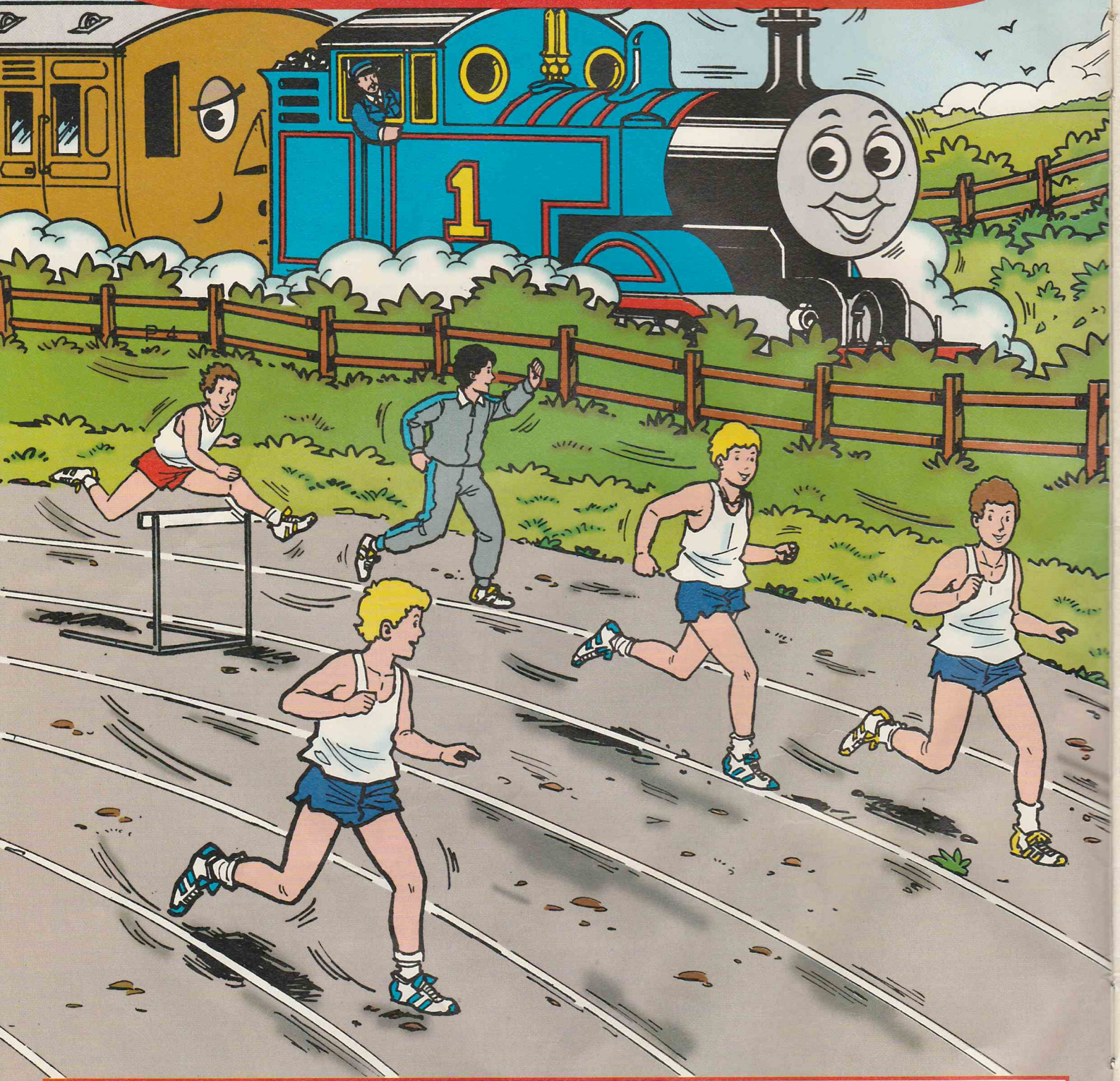


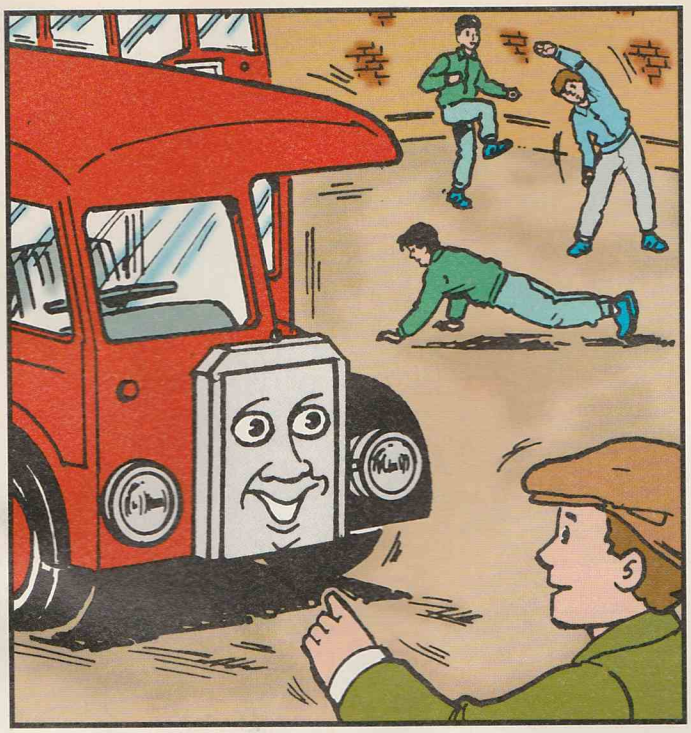
A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

Good sports!

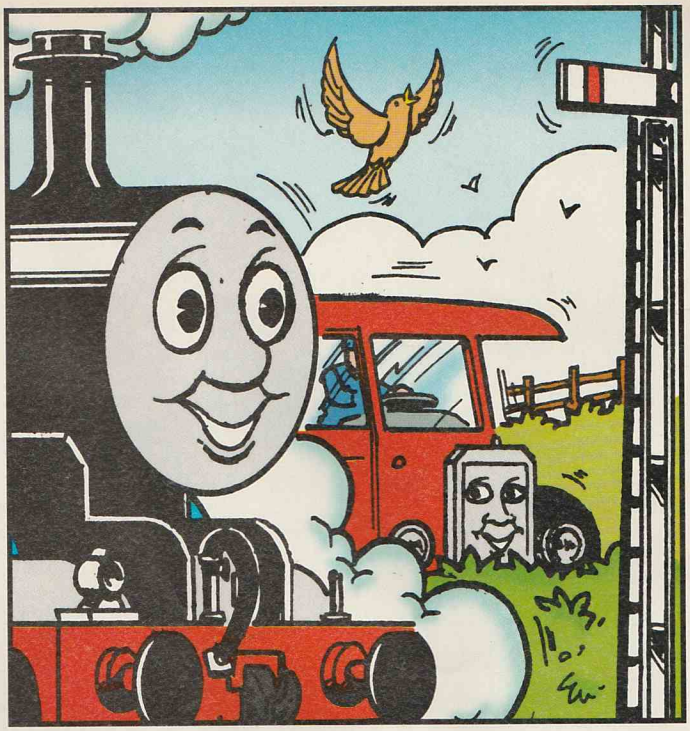


1. There was to be a grand sports competition between the engine drivers and the bus drivers. Each day, after work, Thomas took all the engine drivers to a big field.

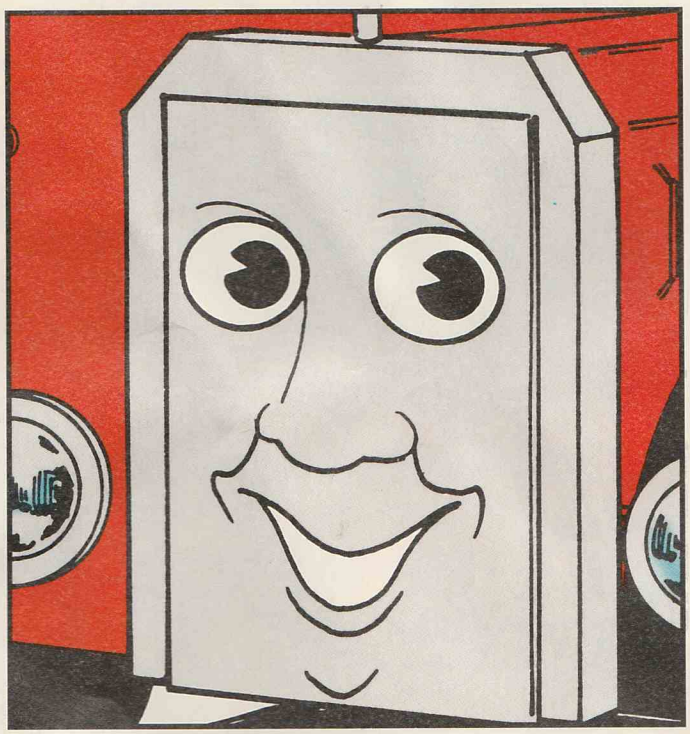
2. Everyone wore special shoes and shorts to go running, jumping and do all sorts of other events. "They're practising very hard for the competition," thought Thomas.



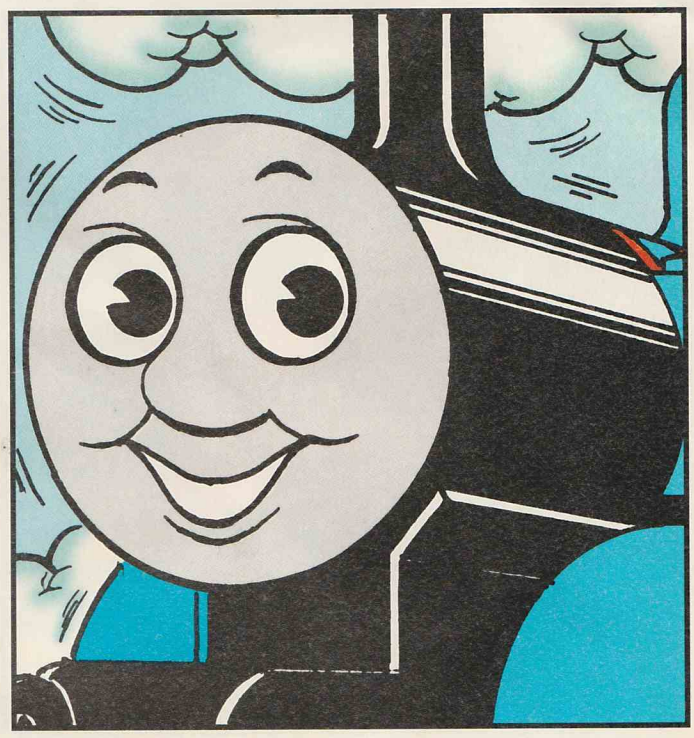
3. It was just the same at the bus depot. When Bertie and the other buses finished carrying their passengers, the drivers spent their spare time busily training.



4. The morning of the competition soon came, but Thomas was busy on his branch line. As he waited at a signal, Bertie pulled up at a traffic light.

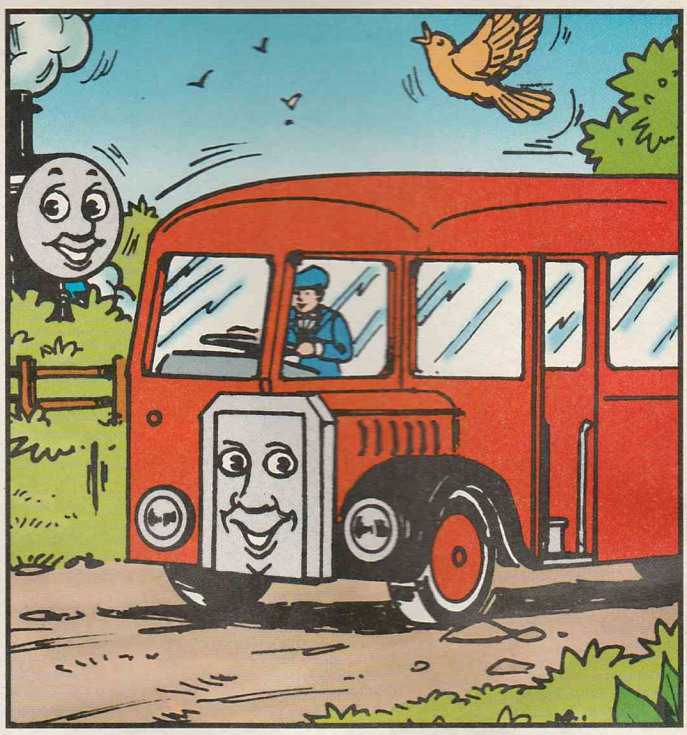


5. "Hello, Thomas!" called Bertie. "Are you going to the sports competition this evening?" "Yes!" replied Thomas. "I've been chosen to take our team there! I can't wait!"

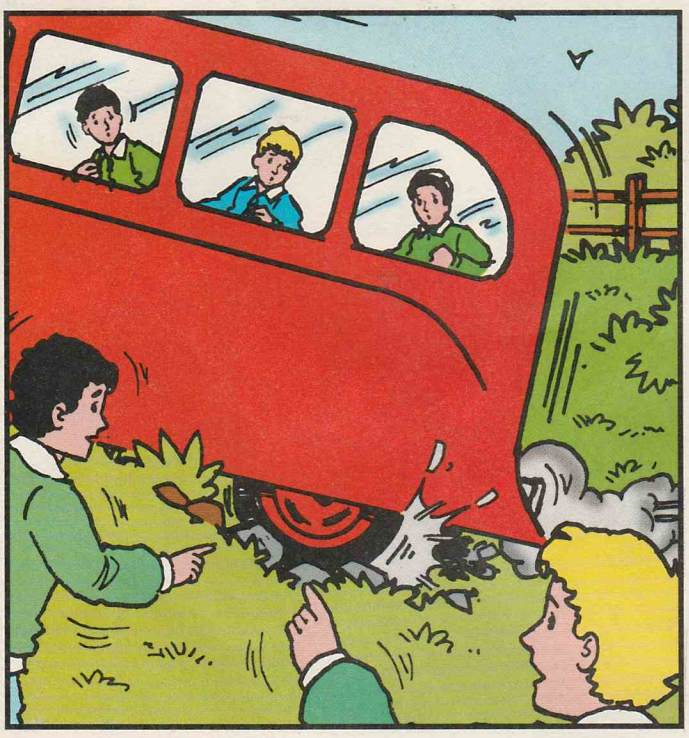


6. "I'm bringing the bus drivers!" said Bertie, excitedly. "I hope they win!" "Taking part is what really matters," smiled Thomas. "I wish we were!" said Bertie.

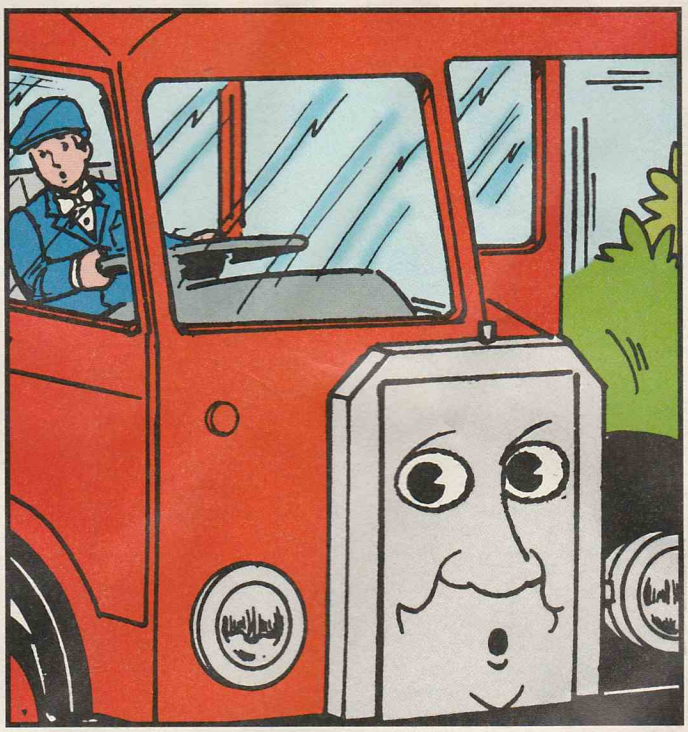
7. At last, it was time for the competition. Thomas brought the Fat Controller and engine drivers to the sports field. He felt proud to be a Really Useful Engine.



8. Thomas rolled slowly into a little siding, at the edge of the field, and pulled up so all of the train drivers could get out. Soon Bertie arrived with the bus drivers.



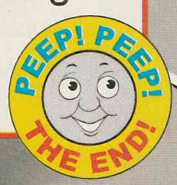
9. Bertie stopped in one corner and backed up to park in front of Thomas. Suddenly, Bertie's rear wheels slipped into a steep ditch. "Help! I'm stuck!" he shouted.



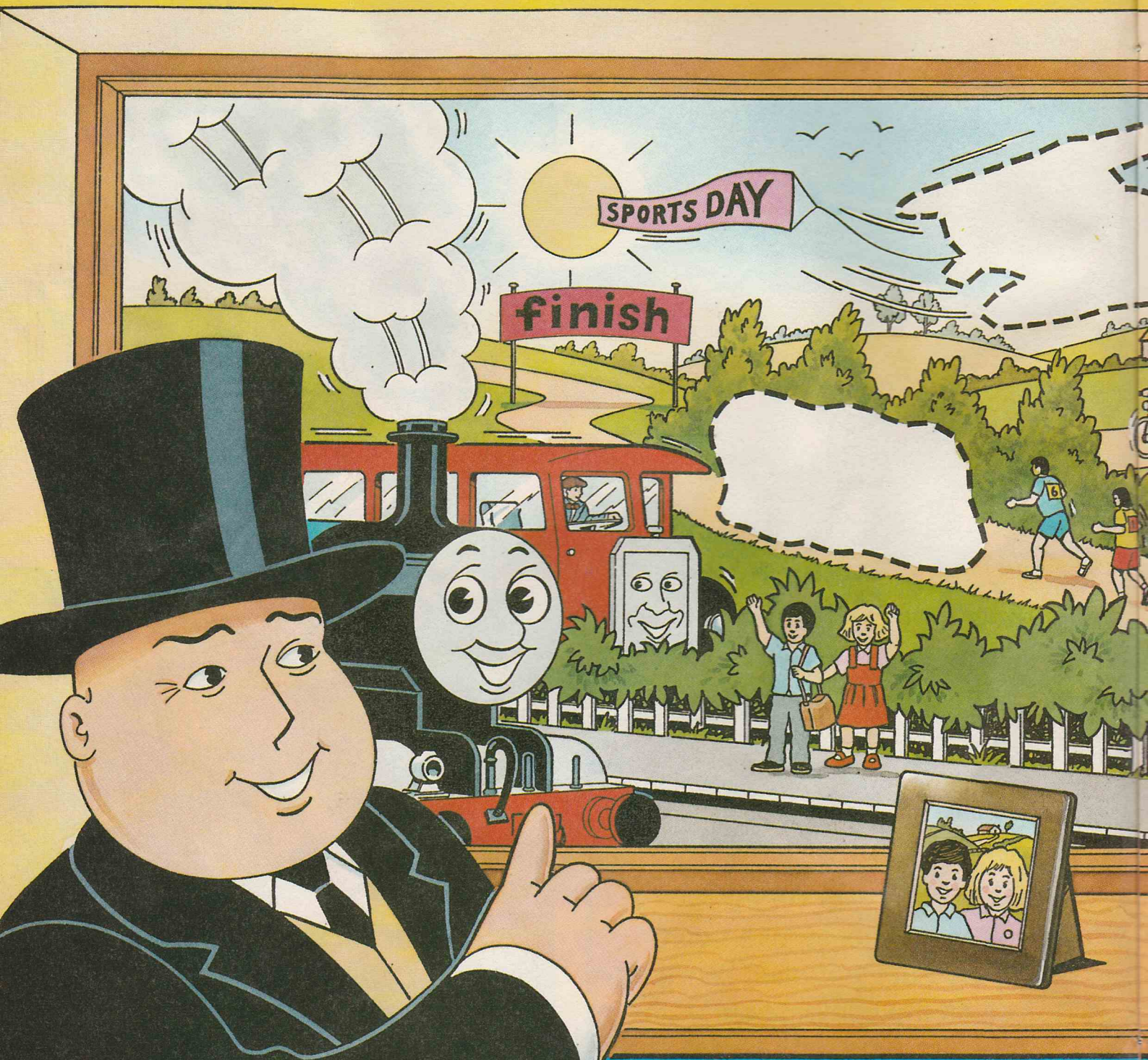
10. Both the teams tried to push Bertie out of the ditch. But he was much too heavy. "The sports can't start until we've rescued Bertie!" said his worried driver.

11. But that could take hours!" cried the Fat Controller. "We'll have to call off the competition!" "Oh, dear! I didn't mean to spoil it," groaned Bertie. Thomas had an idea. He told his driver. Soon a thick rope was tied to Thomas's buffers. The other end was tied to the front of Bertie. Bertie looked worried. "Don't worry, I'll get you out of the ditch!" called Thomas.

12. "You're not strong enough!" said Bertie. But Thomas huffed and puffed and pulled on the rope. His wheels spun with the strain and he spouted steam everywhere! Very slowly he towed Bertie out of the ditch. "Well done, Thomas! Now the sports can begin!" said the Fat Controller. "I thought they already had," said Thomas. "With a tug-of-war - which I won!"



Through the Fat Co



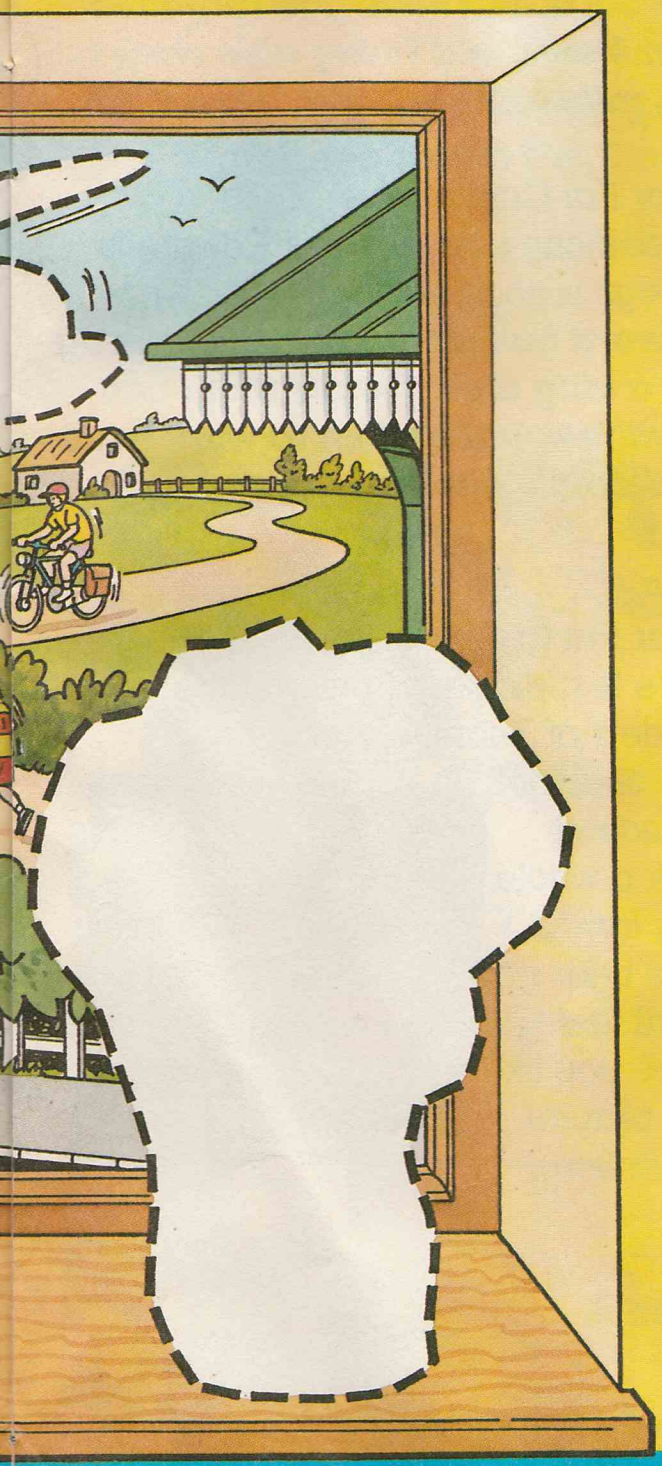
The Fat Controller has got a splendid vi
write the answers to our game of 'eye' s

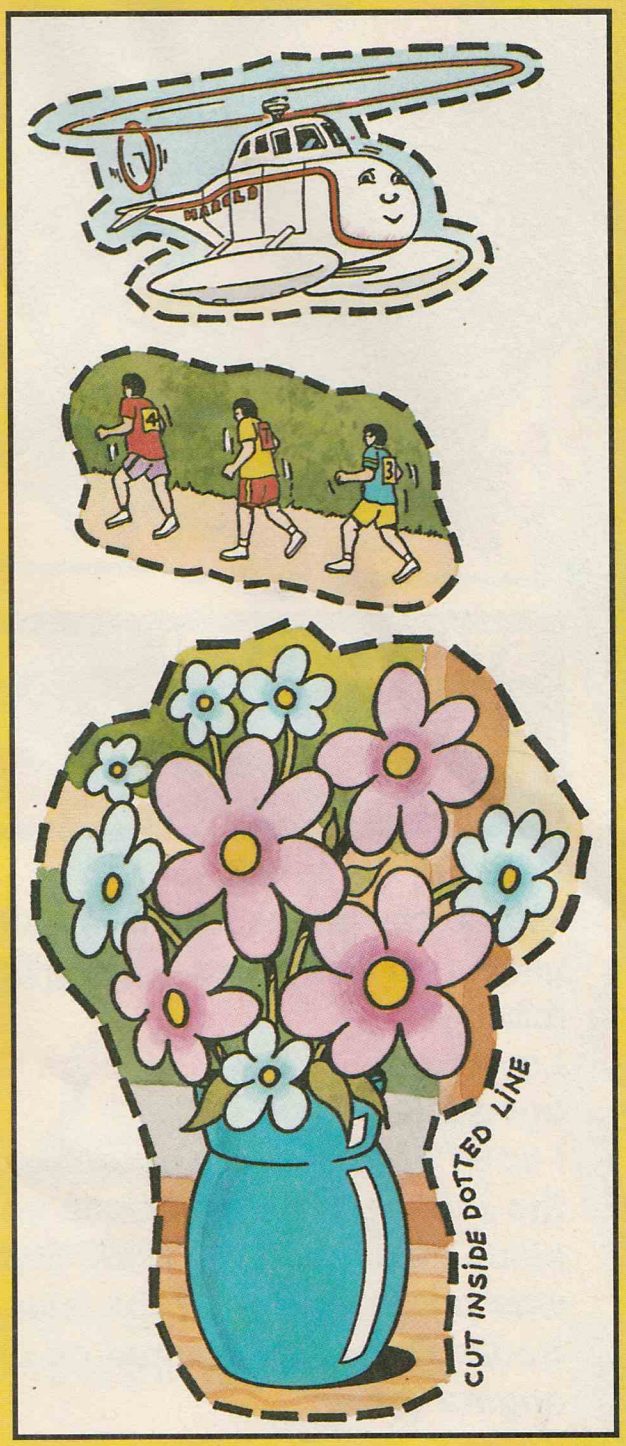
Eye spy with my little eye so

Eye spy with my little eye so

Eye spy with my little eye so

ontroller's window!





iew from his office window! I wonder what he can see today? In this fun activity you can spy in the space provided. Then just stick on the cut out sections to finish the picture!

omething beginning with...B 1._____ 2._____

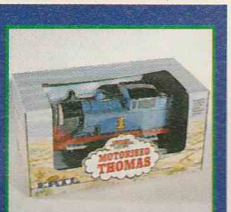
omething beginning with...H 1._____ 2._____

omething beginning with...T 1._____ 2._____

YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!



Dear Fat Controller,
Please can you tell me how many years you have been working on the railway?
Love from Patrick & George Croft, aged 5 & 6.
I have always loved working on the railway and have done so since I was a young man! Before I was put in charge of the Island of Sodor Railway, I worked as an engine driver.

Dear Fat Controller,
My brother Henry wonders why you only have boys as your engines?
Love from Victoria Barthram, aged 7.
It is true that most of my engines are boys, but have you forgotten that Mavis and Daisy also work on my railway?

Dear Fat Controller,
Please can you tell me if Edward is always a good engine?
Edward has worked on the railway for a long time! I know that I can always count on him to work hard and do his best!

Photo of the fortnight!

Dear Fat Controller,
Here is a picture of me and the models of Thomas, Annie and Clarabel that I made. It took a whole day for the glue and paint to dry! I hope you like the picture!
Love from Nathan Clarke, aged 2.

BIRTHDAYS

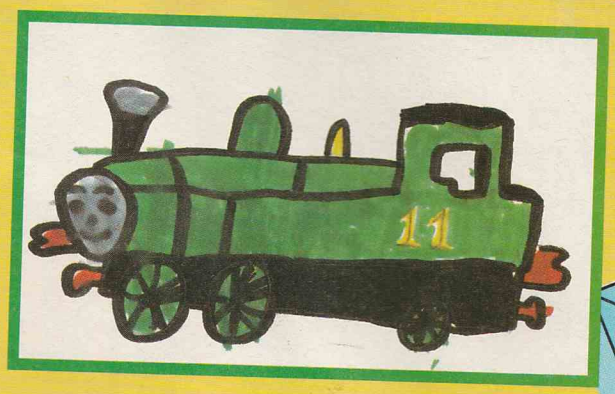
The Fat Controller sends his best wishes to...

William Clarke, Mark Bury, Stephen Cole, Bryan Owen and belated wishes go to Rhys Hobbs.

Drawing Board!

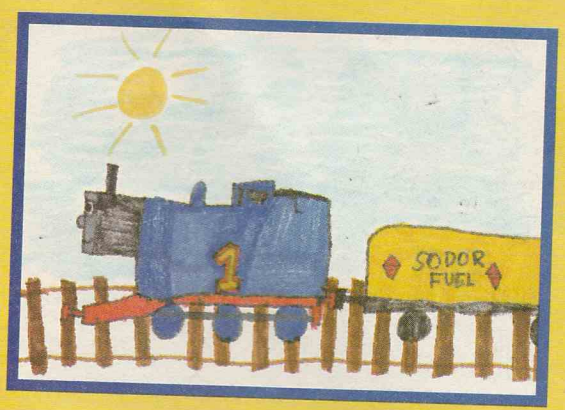
Thank you for sending your smashing drawings and pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board

Here's a good picture of Oliver! As drawn by Farrell Usher who's 4!



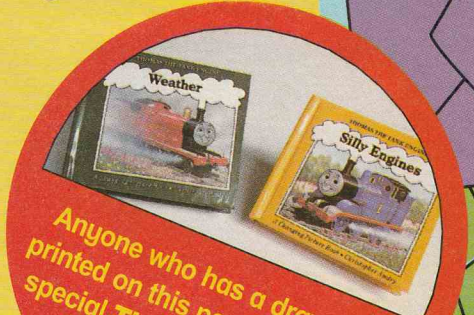
Andrew West has drawn a splendid picture of Thomas on his night time ride!

Mark Turton who's 7 has drawn a great picture of Trevor at the scrap yard. Well done!



Thomas is busy pulling the Sodor fuel truck. Thanks to James Wakefield, aged 7!

If you would like to have your drawing or painting displayed on the page, then please send your entries to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Changing Picture Book.

CUT-OUT AND KEEP

Number G

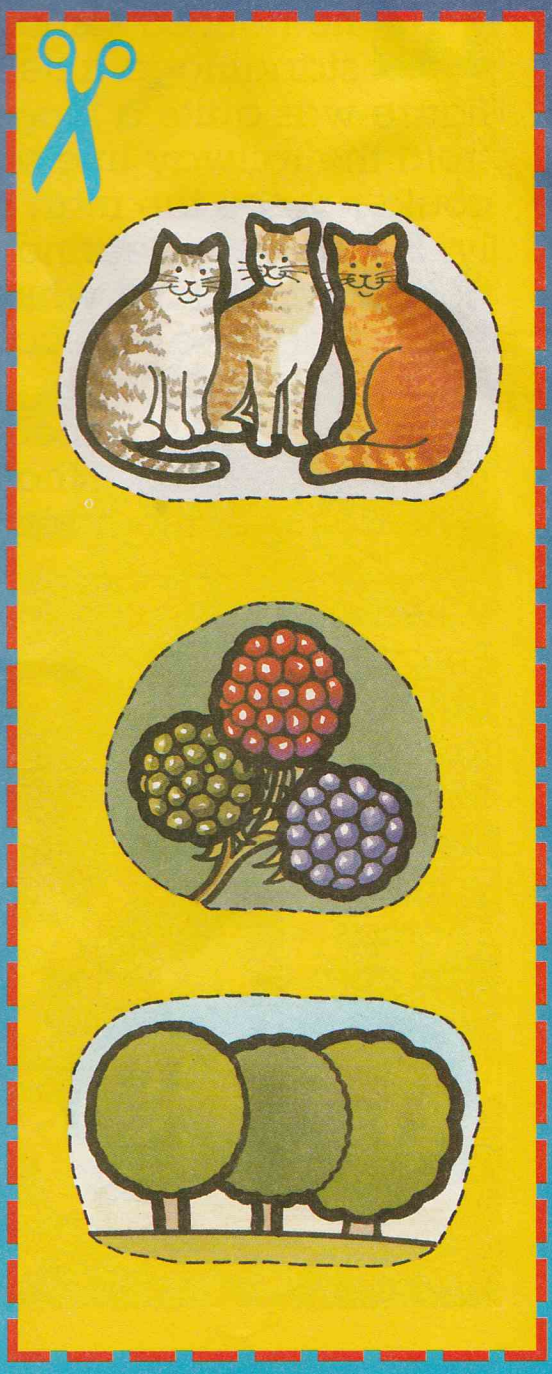
Here is picture number 2 to add to your number gallery! If you look at the picture carefully you will see some dotted outlines. This is where you stick your cut out shapes from last issue's Number Gallery! Don't forget to cut out this week's shapes and keep them safe for the next issue!

Here we go with some number fun. I wonder what Edward can see?

Two flowers in bloom, how pretty they look and off in the distance two trees.

What else can you see on this bright autumn day, can you spot the two buzzing bees?

Gallery 2



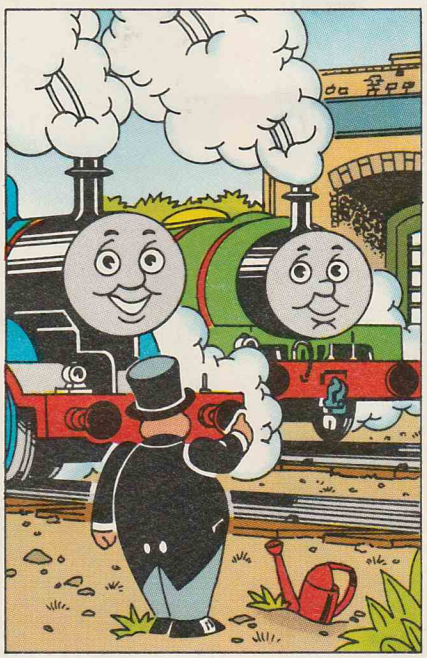
TWO FAT CONTROLLERS!

One morning, Thomas rolled into the Maintenance Shed to be oiled. Meanwhile, Percy was taking the post train along Thomas's branch line. Soon Percy was steaming through the countryside.

When he passed a farm, he noticed someone standing in a field. The figure was quite a long way from the railway line so Percy could not see the man clearly. But he was wearing a top hat and dark coat which Percy would have recognised anywhere!

"Gracious!" he gasped. "It's the Fat Controller! Whatever is he doing in the middle of a field?"

When Percy returned to the Main Station yard, Thomas was coming out of the Works. Percy told him who he had seen.



"Impossible!" laughed Thomas. "The Fat Controller is in the Maintenance Shed with the Chief Engineer. Look, here he comes now!" Percy was surprised.

"Puffing pistons!" he whispered. "How could he have returned from the farm so quickly?"

"You can't fool me , Percy!" grinned Thomas. "Stop teasing!"

The Fat Controller came to see the two engines. He asked Percy to shunt coal trucks in the yard. Then he sent Thomas down his branch line with a goods train.

When Thomas passed the farm, he stared in amazement. He could see the Fat Controller in the field, too.

"Smoke and fire!" cried Thomas. "Percy was right!" A signal on the line warned Thomas to stop. While he waited for it to show the line was clear again, Thomas spoke to his driver.

"How can the Fat Controller be in two places at once?" he asked.

"I think I can guess!" said the driver. He spotted the farmer leaning on a gate near the track. Thomas's

driver asked the farmer why the Fat Controller was standing in the field.

"That's not the Fat Controller!" laughed the farmer. "It's a scarecrow to stop the birds eating my crops!"

The Farmer explained that the Fat Controller was a good friend of his. And he'd given him his old top hat and coat to dress the scarecrow.

"So that's the answer to the mystery!" chuckled Thomas. "Wait till I tell Percy he didn't see the Fat Controller. What he saw was the Fat Scarecrow!"

THE END!

Make a lea

You will need:
paper or card, glue, coloured pens or pencils, twigs and fallen leaves.

Autumn is here and the leaves are changing colour from green to golden brown! What better way to make a pretty picture than by using the fallen leaves?

1. Go to a park or maybe a forest to collect your twigs and leaves. Remember, only collect the leaves that have fallen on the ground!

2. Take your collection of leaves home and sort through them. Choose the best leaves and twigs to make your picture.

ify engine!

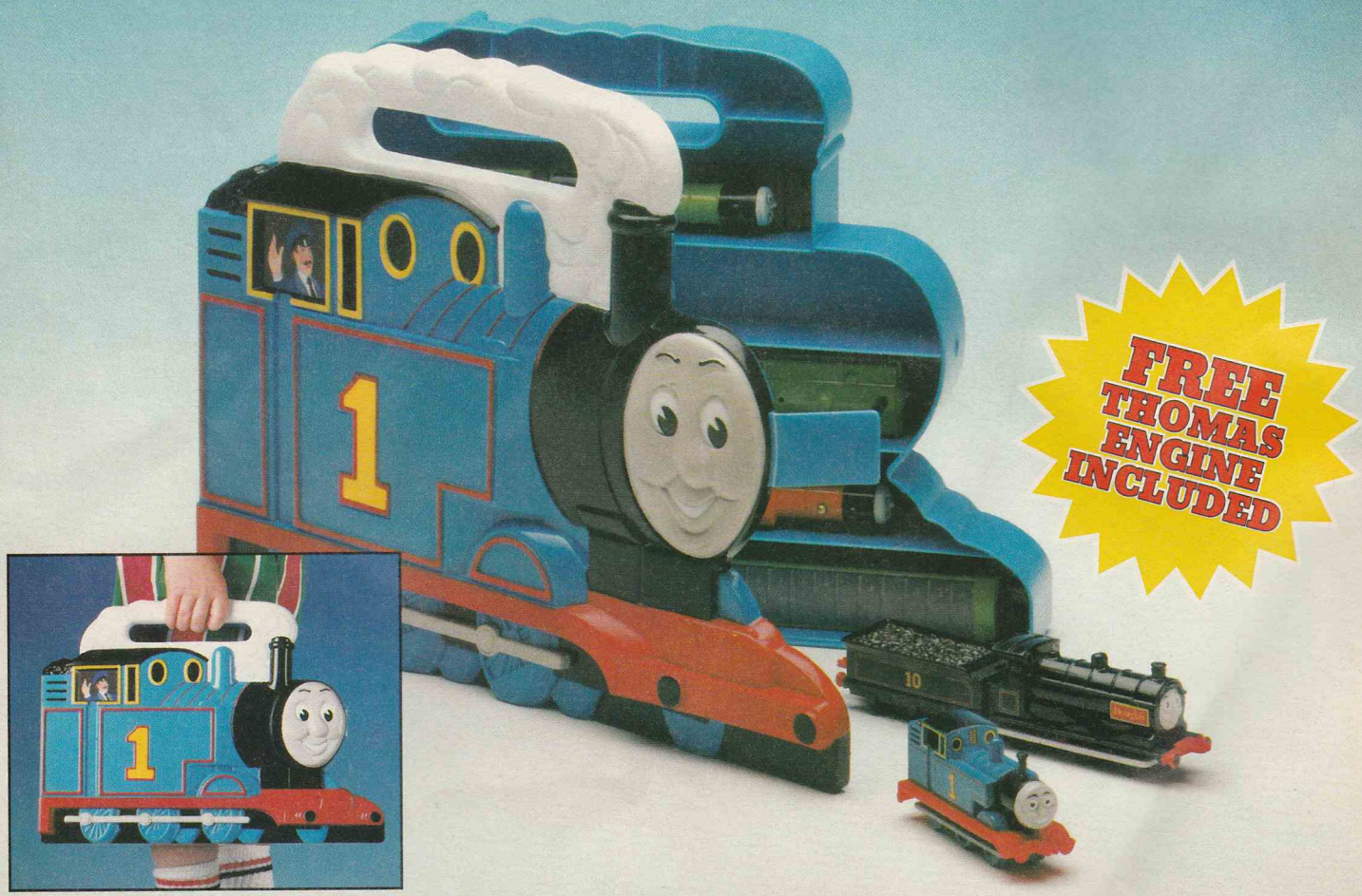
3. Before you stick anything on to your paper or card, lay out your leaves first. Then if you make a mistake it doesn't matter! You may find it easier if you draw an engine outline on your paper first. Then you can just fill in the area with your leaves.

4. Stick your leaves on to the paper using safe glue!

5. To make your picture look really great, you can make a frame to go round the edge!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

CARRY CASE



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The Thomas Carry Case holds between 10 and 14 of the Ertl "Thomas" characters **(free Thomas the Tank Engine diecast model included)**. It is moulded in durable high quality plastic and has sections to hold the various Thomas characters. A wonderful way to look after your Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends characters, and take them round to ***your*** friends.

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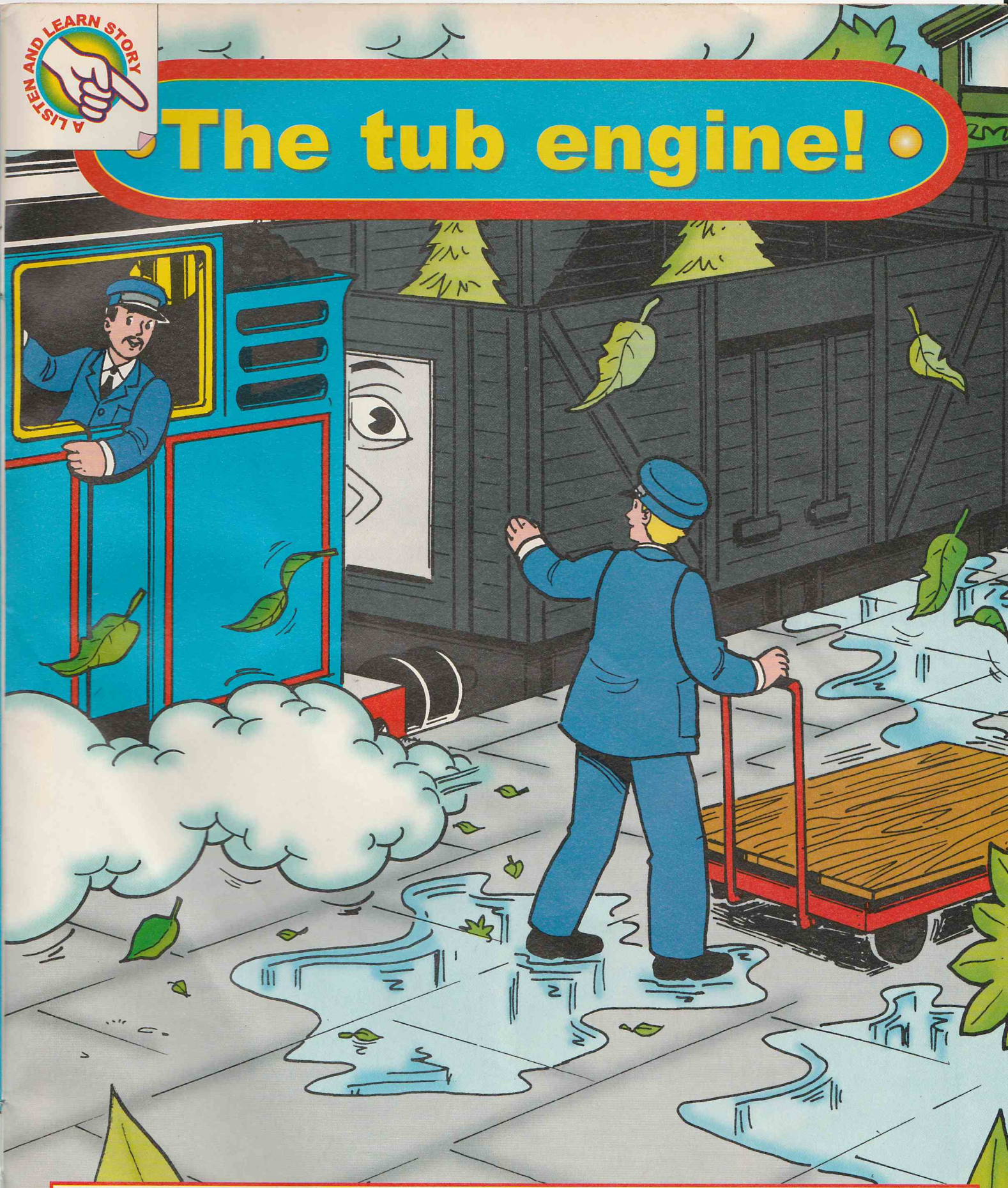
A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

The tub engine!



1. Thomas was making a special delivery. A Stationmaster on his branch line had won a prize from the Fat Controller for keeping the tidiest station on the railway.

2. Two young fir trees in big clay pots were unloaded from a truck coupled to Thomas. "I'll put them each side of the waiting room," said the Stationmaster, proudly.

3. He fetched a trolley and lifted the first potted tree onto it. But it had been raining that day and the platform was very wet. Suddenly, the Stationmaster slipped.

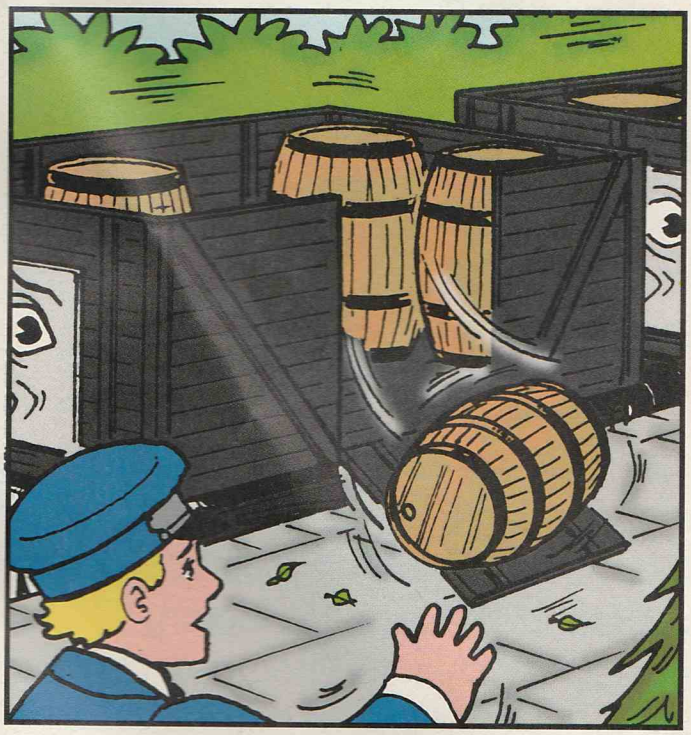
4. The pot rolled off the trolley. It fell on the ground and broke. Earth spilled everywhere. "Oh, no!" cried the Stationmaster. "Now my station looks really untidy!"

5. Thomas's driver helped to sweep up. Luckily the tree was unharmed. "I'll have to plant it in a spare fire bucket. I've nothing else to use," said the Stationmaster.

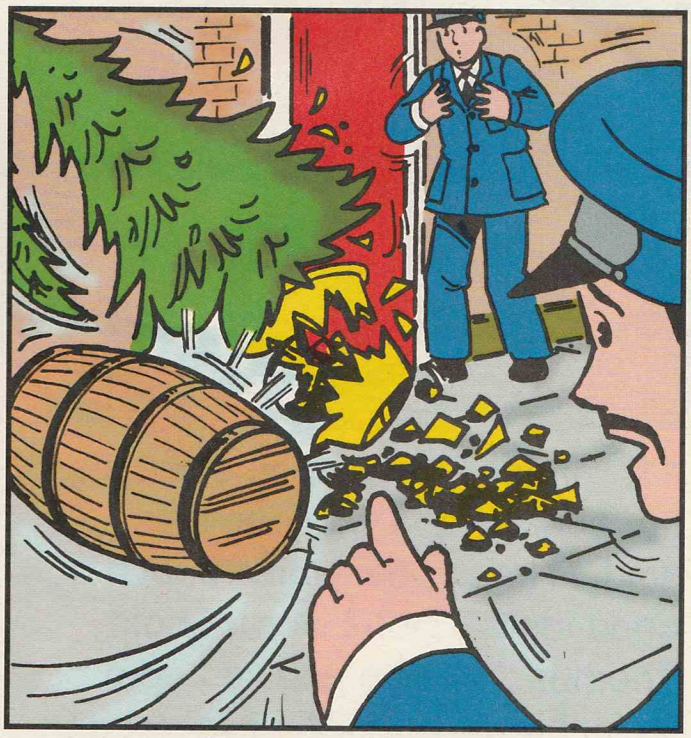
6. Then, Thomas set off on his next job for the day. He had to collect some large wooden barrels from a factory farther up the line. Soon they were aboard his trucks.

7. "They're going to a customer on the mainland," the factory owner told Thomas's driver. "I've lots more barrels to sell but I can't find anybody else to buy them."

8. On the way back, Thomas had to stop at the tidy station to take on water. The two fir trees stood near the waiting room. "That one in the bucket looks funny," said Thomas.



9. When he pulled up, his wheels slipped on some wet leaves on the line. His driver braked harder and Thomas jolted to a halt. The side of a truck burst open.



10. "Look out!" shouted Thomas's driver. A wooden barrel came rolling down on to the platform. It hit the tree in the other clay pot and that smashed noisily, too.

11. "I don't have another empty fire bucket," the Stationmaster said. "These pots weren't such a good idea." "Don't worry," said Thomas. "Maybe you've had a lucky break, after all - I've got an idea." Later, his driver spoke to the factory owner, who agreed to help them. Thomas fetched a barrel for the Stationmaster. It had been cut in half to make two wooden tubs.

12. The fir trees looked really smart when they were planted in the tubs. The Stationmaster was delighted. So was the factory owner. "Thanks to Thomas's clever idea, I've sold lots of barrel tubs to a plant nursery, and I've just had an order to supply more!" he said as Thomas arrived to deliver them. "Just call me Thomas the Tub Engine!" joked Thomas.

Full steam ahead for great prizes!!!

Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends have teamed up with **Golden Bear Products** and are giving you the chance to win some great prizes! **We have 20 Thomas playsets to be won.** These include two engine figures and a Fat Controller figure. Plus, 10 lucky winners could win a **NEW soft Thomas pull along toy!**
If you would like to win one of these great prizes just answer this very easy question!

Which two engines can you see in this picture?

Send your answers on a postcard with your name and address to the following address:Thomas/Golden Bear, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Magazine, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 2DX.

All entries to be received by 12th October, 1995.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd., and Golden Bear Products Ltd. All prizes will be distributed via the manufacturer. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

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Child's name ..... **Address** .....

.....

..... **Post code** ..... **Date of birth**.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my **Visa/Mastercard** or call Credit card hotline on 01858 410510.

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

Card holder's signature .....

Parent's/donor's name: Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... **Address (if different from child's)**

.....

.....**Post code** .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE99 0AD.

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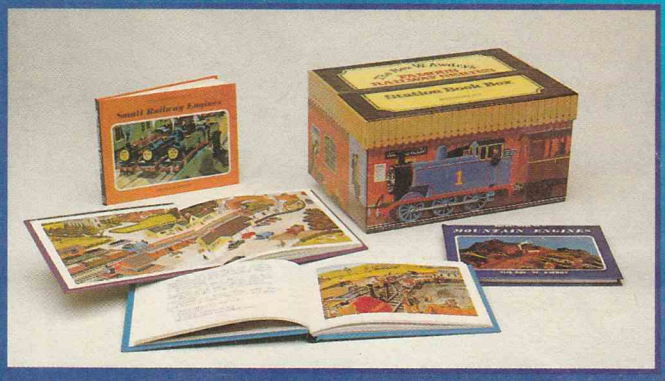
win these great prizes!!



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